

The image features a background of a stone wall with various shades of grey, tan, and brown stones. A large, white, semi-transparent rectangular area is centered over the wall, containing the text "Growing a Healthy Church" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Growing a Healthy Church

Summary of First Message

A healthy, growing church is not primarily marked by proper church order (although that has its place)

Nor even because the glorious Lord is in the midst, (because He is always glorious in every church)

But it is marked by saints who are filled with all the fullness of God !

Therefore, Christ is both the “fulness” and the “filler of hearts”



Series Outline

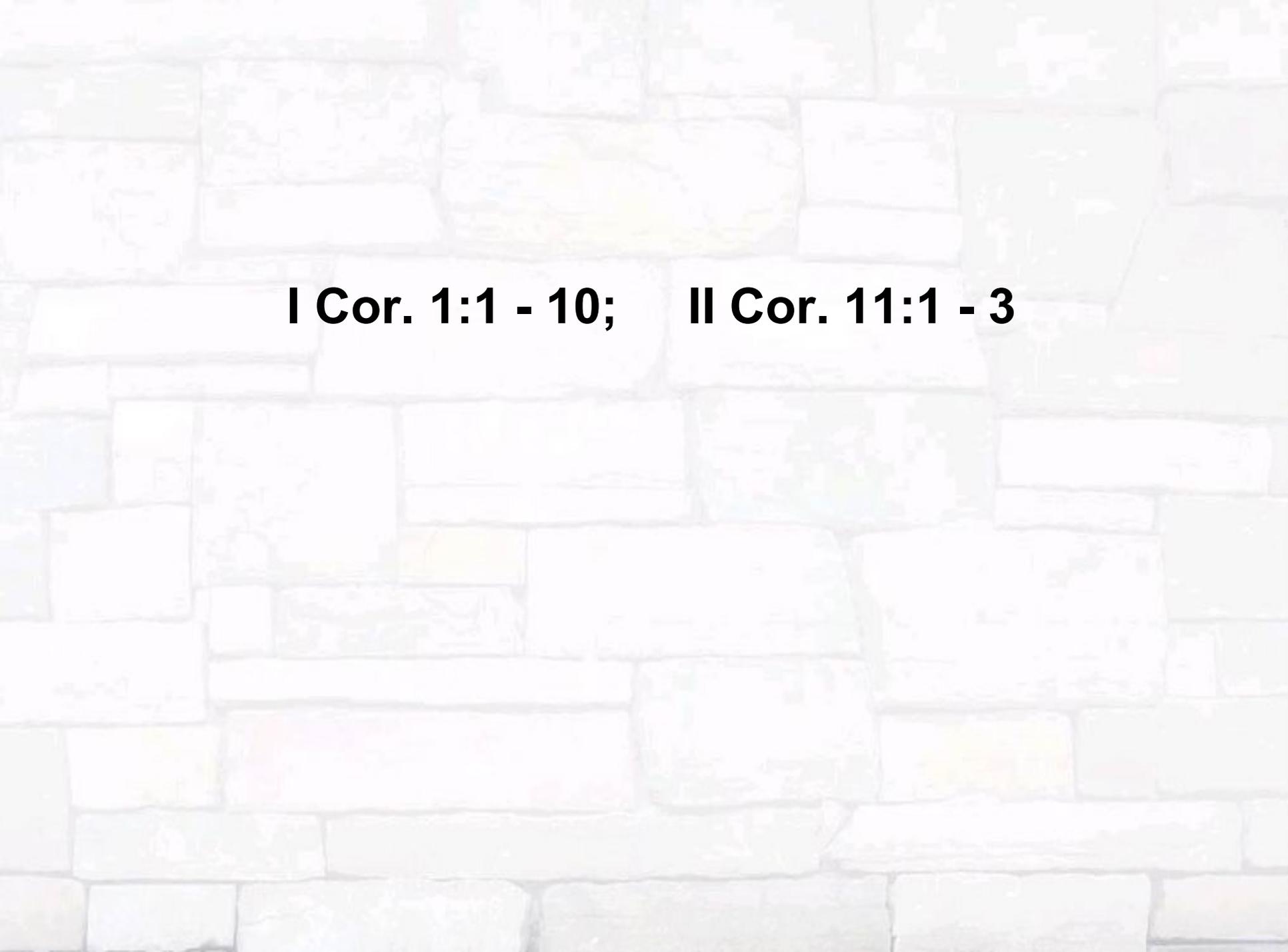
I. Filling Hearts

- A. Christ the Fulness
- B. The church as a bride

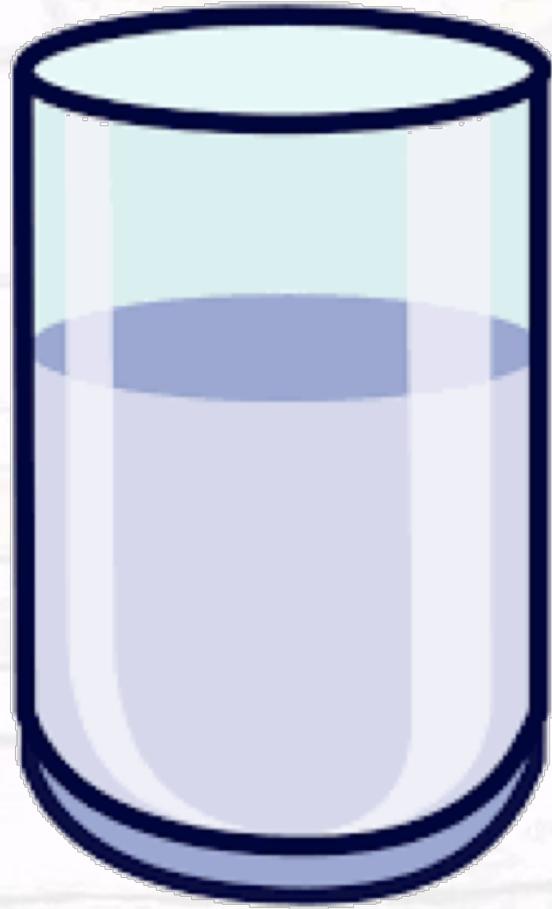


II. Overflowing hearts

- A. The attractive quality of true fellowship
- B. Outreach that works
- C. Living and life-giving worship
- D. The prayer meeting you can't miss



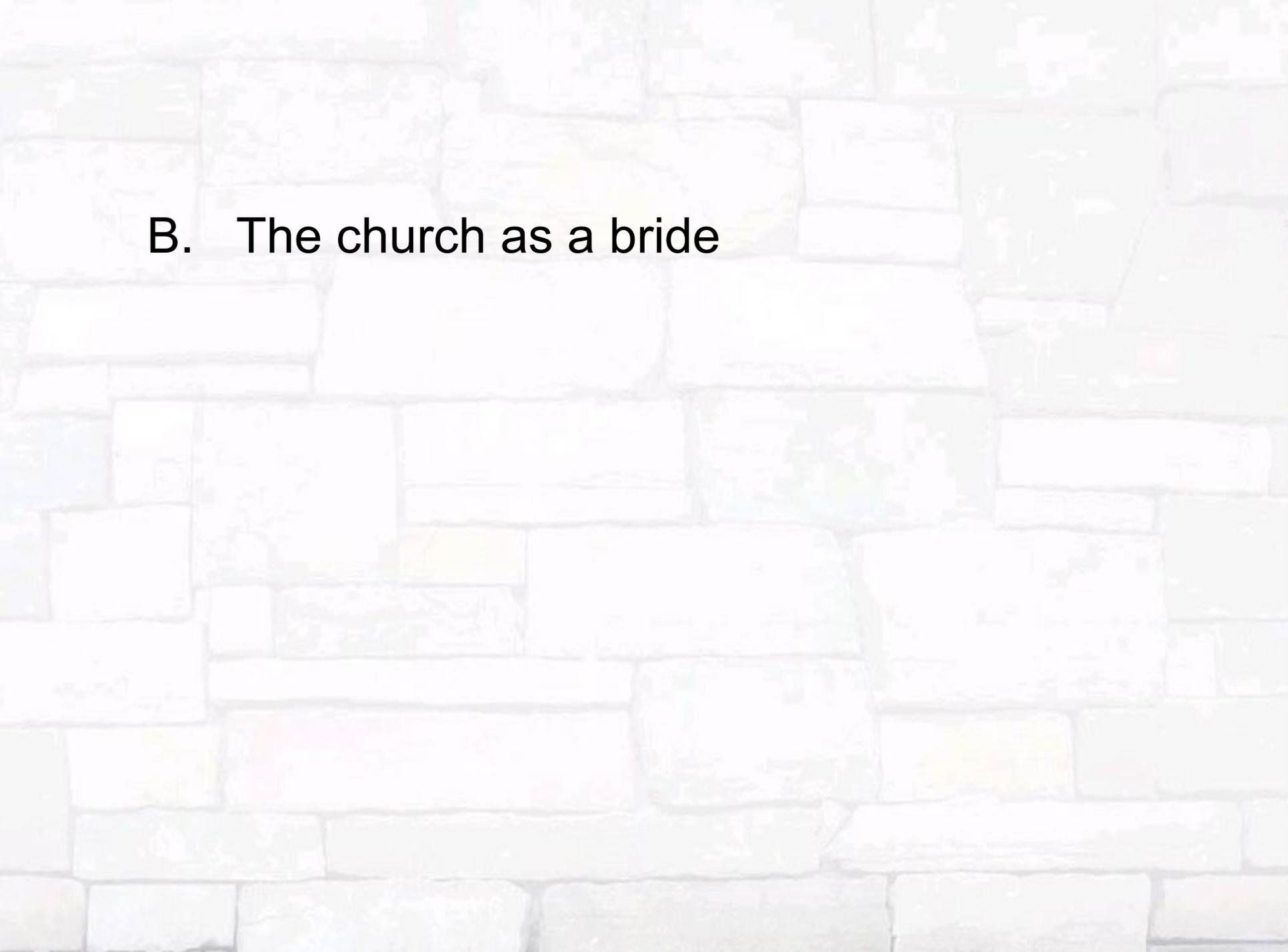
I Cor. 1:1 - 10; II Cor. 11:1 - 3











B. The church as a bride

Identification truths about the new man

Crucified with Christ

Gal. 2:20

Buried with Him

Rom. 6:4

Risen with Him

Col. 3:1

Seated with Him

Eph. 2:6

Eph. 2:14 - 15

“one new man” = the church

(also described as “body,” “building,” “lampstand” etc.
One special term is the “bride”)

Emphasis of this term: Love, submission, vulnerability

Dangers to the Bride - II Cor. 11:2

3 Questions

- 1) Can we apply the term “bride of Christ” to the local church?
- 2) Is the term “bride” fitting for the church at Corinth?
- 3) How then does Christ view and address His bride?

3 Questions

1) Can we apply the term “bride of Christ” to the local church?

I Cor. 3:9; 12:27

All terms used to describe the universal church
may be applied to the local church

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Corinth: a New Testament assembly?

1. Divisions ch 1
2. Immorality ch 5
3. Lawsuits ch 6
4. Involvement with idols ch 8
5. Drunken / hungry ch 11
6. Tongues ch 12
7. Doctrinal error ch 15

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The Lord addressing His church

I Cor. 1:2	sanctified in Christ Jesus; called saints
Eph. 1	saints; faithful in Christ Jesus
Col. 1	saints; faithful brethren
I Thes. 1	in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ
5	all the holy brethren
James	my brethren
I Pet. 1	elect according to the foreknowledge of God
II Pet. 1	obtained like precious faith with us
I John	little children
Jude	sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Christ Jesus and called
Rev.	the Spirit and the bride say, Come

Two Observations

The Lord never addresses the child of God as a mixture of old and new natures. He addresses him as a saint (holy one),

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The Lord never addresses the child of God as a mixture of old and new natures. He addresses him as a saint (holy one),

And He never addresses His bride as a mixed multitude! He addresses her as “the saints.” (pure & spotless bride).

Notes

Exodus 12:37 - 38

The “mixed multitude” in public gatherings is unavoidable:

Notes

Numbers 11:4

The “mixed multitude” will always have a negative effect on the saints:

Notes

Numbers 14:22,23; 23:21

The nation (or the individual) may behave badly, but in the presence of the lost, the Lord addresses them by their position, not their performance.

Summary

The world is confused about the church!

Many Christians are confused about the church.

When we speak to (or about) the church as a bride
in the same way that the Lord does,
it contributes to the health and growth of the church!

3 Areas for Application

1. New or young believers
2. Married couples
3. Elders / speakers

Conclusion

A healthy, growing church is marked by:

1. People with a healthy, growing relationship with the Lord
2. A healthy view of the church as a spotless bride; not a mixed multitude
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Jesus said:

“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” Jn 8:32